REMARKS

Claims 10-33 are pending in this application. Claim 16 is amended and claims 30-33 are added.

The Claimed Invention

An exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 10, is directed to a housing for a refrigerator comprising a body and a door which is fixed to the body, both of which define an inner chamber, wherein at least one evacuated insulation body is formed by the body and the door, wherein an inner wall made of a plastic material is mounted in front of the insulation body towards the inner chamber.

Another exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 19, is directed to a refrigerator comprising a vacuum insulation body forming at least a portion of the body of the refrigerator and including an outer wall and an intermediate wall spaced apart from one another and forming a body space between the outer wall and intermediate wall; and an inner wall mounted on the intermediate wall of the vacuum insulation body facing the inner chamber.

Yet another exemplary embodiment of the invention, as recited by independent claim 27, is directed to a refrigerator comprising a vacuum insulation body including an outer wall and an intermediate wall spaced apart from one another and forming a body space between the outer wall and intermediate wall; and an inner wall mounted on the intermediate wall of the vacuum insulation body facing the inner chamber.

Conventional refrigerators may include vacuum insulating panels, but problems arise in trying to attach fixtures to the inner walls of the refrigerator without rupturing the vacuum seal.

The invention addresses and solves this problem by providing a vacuum insulation body and an inner wall that is not part of the vacuum insulation body.

The Casoli Reference in view of the Cur Reference

The Office Action rejected claims 10-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Casoli et al. (EP 1 335 171) in view of Cur et al. (EP 0 437 930). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 10 includes the feature of at least one evacuated insulation body being formed by the body and the door, wherein an inner wall made of a plastic material is mounted in front of the insulation body towards the inner chamber. Because the claimed inner wall is "mounted in front of" the insulation body, it cannot be one of the walls of the insulation body itself.

Initially, Applicants submit that it would not have been obvious to combine the multi compartment panel of Cur with the refrigerator of Casoli because to do so would be contrary to the teachings of Casoli. In paragraph 0004, Casoli states "An aim of the present invention is to provide a domestic refrigerator...that makes it possible to resolve the aforementioned problem in a simple and economic manner." A main feature of Casoli appears to be the use of holes and/or channels to speed up the evacuation process. A main feature of Cur is to provide separate vacuum compartments to increase the insulation qualities of the panel. If one was to insert the multi compartment panel of Cur into the refrigerator of Casoli, one would need to provide multiple completely separate evacuation systems in order to preserve the separate nature of the separate vacuum compartments. Providing such an elaborate structure of multiple separate evacuation systems would fly in the face of Casoli's stated purpose of simplicity and economy.

Secondly, although the Office Action does not point to a specific part of Casoli that it considers to be the insulation body, Applicants submit that the only part of Casoli that could be considered an insulation body is the combination of outer shell 16, insulating porous material 20 and inner shell 14. As admitted by the Office Action, Casoli discloses just a single evacuation space. Combining Cur with Casoli would not result in the features of claim 10. The outer film walls 30, 32 of Cur are flexible. If one was to combine a multi compartment panel of Cur with the structure of Casoli, the result would be at most a multi compartment panel inserted into the insulation body of Casoli. Because outer shell 16 and inner shell 14 are parts of the insulation body, the claimed inner wall mounted in front of the insulation body would not exist. The combination of Casoli and Cur would not result in an inner wall that is separate from the insulation body.

Claim 11 includes the feature of the insulation body being separated from the inner chamber at least locally by an intermediate space. The Office Action asserts that it would have been obvious to provide the housing of Casoli with an intermediate space between the space K of

Casoli and inner shell 14, "as taught by Cur". Applicants respectfully submit that inserting the vacuum insulation panel 28 of Cur between the inner shell 14 and the outer shell 16 of Casoli would not result in an insulation body being separated from an inner chamber by an intermediate space because, as stated above, outer shell 16 and inner shell 14 are parts of the insulation body, so no intermediate space would exist between inner shell 14 and the inner chamber of the refrigerator.

Claim 13 includes the feature of the inner wall having at least one aperture. Casoli does not show an aperture in inner shell 14. Cur does not show an aperture in liner 20. Indeed, the Office Action does not assert that either reference discloses an aperture in an inner wall. Similarly, the features of claims 14-16 are not shown in either reference.

Claim 17 includes the feature of the body being composed of a plurality of insulation bodies. In contrast the refrigerator of Casoli has at most one insulation body. This is evidenced by the purpose of Casoli, which is to create one vacuum chamber that can be quickly evacuated.

Claim 19 includes the feature of a vacuum insulation body forming at least a portion of the body of the refrigerator and including an outer wall and an intermediate wall spaced apart from one another and forming a body space between the outer wall and intermediate wall; and an inner wall mounted on the intermediate wall of the vacuum insulation body facing the inner chamber. In contrast, Casoli has no intermediate wall. Also, Cur does not teach or suggest mounting an inner wall on an intermediate wall. Liner 20 of Cur is not mounted to the outer film wall of vacuum insulation panel 28. Further, it would not have been obvious to mount anything, much less the inner wall of a refrigerator, to the outer film walls 30, 32 of the vacuum insulation panel 28 of Cur. An important feature of Cur is that outer film walls 30, 32 are the outer barriers that maintain the vacuum inside vacuum insulation panel 28. It would not be obvious to mount anything to these film walls because to do so would be to unnecessarily risk rupturing the film walls.

Claim 26 includes the feature of an aperture formed in the inner wall and a cable running through the intermediate space and extending through the aperture. Casoli does not show an aperture in inner shell 14. Cur does not show an aperture in liner 20. Indeed, the Office Action does not assert that either reference discloses an aperture in an inner wall.

Claim 27 includes the feature of a vacuum insulation body including an outer wall and an intermediate wall spaced apart from one another and forming a body space between the outer wall and intermediate wall; and an inner wall mounted on the intermediate wall of the vacuum insulation body facing the inner chamber. In contrast, Casoli has no intermediate wall. Also, Cur does not teach or suggest mounting an inner wall on an intermediate wall. Liner 20 of Cur is not mounted to the outer film wall of vacuum insulation panel 28. Further, it would not have been obvious to mount anything, much less the inner wall of a refrigerator, to the outer film walls 30, 32 of the vacuum insulation panel 28 of Cur. An important feature of Cur is that outer film walls 30, 32 are the outer barriers that maintain the vacuum inside vacuum insulation panel 28. It would not be obvious to mount anything to these film walls because to do so would be to unnecessarily risk rupturing the film walls.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Casoli and Cur does not suggest the features of claims 10-29 and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

New Claims

New claims 30-33 are added. Claims 30 and 32 include the feature of the outer wall of the vacuum insulation body being an outside wall of the refrigerator. Claims 31 and 33 include the feature of an attachment device for supporting a fixture on the inside of the refrigerator. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references teaches or suggests the features of claims 30-33.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claims 10-33. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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